

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
TYLER DIVISION**

EMG TECHNOLOGY, LLC Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
	§	
VS.	§	CASE NO. 6:12-CV-259
	§	LEAD CASE
CHRYSLER GROUP, LLC	§	
Defendant.	§	
	§	

EMG TECHNOLOGY, LLC Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
	§	
VS.	§	CASE NO. 6:12-CV-439
	§	
GOOGLE, INC.	§	
Defendant.	§	
	§	

EMG TECHNOLOGY, LLC Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
	§	
VS.	§	CASE NO. 6:12-CV-453
	§	
COSTCO WHOLESALE CORP.	§	
Defendant.	§	
	§	

EMG TECHNOLOGY, LLC Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
	§	
VS.	§	CASE NO. 6:12-CV-454
	§	
AMERICAN EXPRESS CO.	§	
Defendant.	§	
	§	

EMG TECHNOLOGY, LLC
Plaintiff,

VS.

VISA, INC.
Defendant.

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-479

EMG TECHNOLOGY, LLC
Plaintiff,

VS.

MASTERCARD INC.
Defendant.

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-480

EMG TECHNOLOGY, LLC
Plaintiff,

VS.

7-ELEVEN, INC.
Defendant.

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-495

EMG TECHNOLOGY, LLC
Plaintiff,

VS.

TRAVELOCITY.COM LP
Defendant.

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-496

EMG TECHNOLOGY, LLC
Plaintiff,

VS.

EXPEDIA, INC.
Defendant.

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CASE NO. 6:12-CV-505

CONSOLIDATION ORDER

The passage of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (“AIA”), which clarified the joinder requirements for cases alleging patent infringement, has resulted in a significant increase in the number of “serially” filed patent cases on the Court’s docket. Similarly, the Federal Circuit’s recent *In re EMC Corp.* decision leads to a nearly analogous result for pre-AIA filings because multi-defendant cases may be severed “[u]nless there is an actual link between the facts underlying each claim of infringement.” 677 F.3d 1351, 1360 (Fed. Cir. 2012). Such serially filed or severed cases, by their nature, involve common issues of law or fact, including claim construction and validity. “If actions before the Court involve a common question of law or fact, the court may: (1) join for hearing or trial any or all matters at issue in the actions; (2) consolidate the actions; or (3) issue any other orders to avoid unnecessary cost or delay.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a). In applying Rule 42, a court has considerable discretion. *In re EMC Corp.*, 677 F.3d at 1360; *see also Lurea v. M/V Albata*, 625 F.3d 181, 194 (5th Cir. 2011) (“Rule 42(a) provides district courts with broad authority to consolidate actions that ‘involve a common question of law or fact.’”). Because the above-styled cases involve a common question of law or fact, consolidation of the cases would promote efficient case management.

Accordingly, the Court **ORDERS** that the above-styled cases shall be consolidated for pretrial issues only, with the exception of venue. The earliest filed civil action shall serve as the lead case for consolidated issues. The Clerk of the Court shall add the consolidated defendants to the lead case, as well as Lead and Local Counsel only. Any other counsel who wishes to appear in the lead case shall file a notice of appearance in that case. The individual cases will remain active for venue motions and trial. Should the parties file motions to transfer or motions to sever and transfer, the Court will consider these motions only as to the defendants in the

originally filed (member) cases, not as to all defendants in the pretrial consolidated case. *See Norman*, 2012 WL 3307942, at *4. All motions, other than venue motions, shall be filed in the consolidated case.

By December 10, 2012, the parties shall submit a single Docket Control, Discovery, ESI, and Protective Order, and each of the respective orders shall be filed in the lead case. All parties to the consolidated case are ordered to meet-and-confer and submit uniform docket control, protective and discovery orders, which will govern the consolidated case, regardless of whether the same have previously been entered in individual actions. The local rules' page limitations for *Markman* briefs and other motions will apply to the consolidated case. To further promote judicial economy and to conserve the parties' resources, the Court encourages the parties to file a notice with the Court in the event that there are other related cases currently pending on the Court's docket, as well as any future cases Plaintiff intends to file, that may also be appropriate for consolidation with this case.

So ORDERED and SIGNED this 27th day of November, 2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leonard Davis', written over a horizontal line.

**LEONARD DAVIS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**